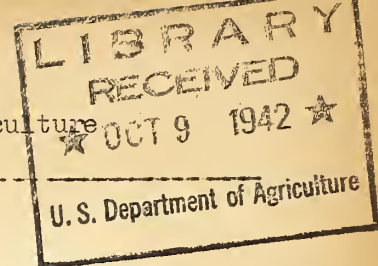


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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 29

September 26, 1942

ARKANSAS (September 1). -- Increased emphasis being given to harvesting, marketing, food preservation, fall garden planting, and all phases of farm home food supply. Total enrollment in Food-for-Victory campaign now 138,661 farm families, including 45,827 negro families. Special attention given to marketing of dairy products, poultry and poultry products, peaches, grapes, truck crops, foliage crops, and seed.

4-H Clubs active in buying war stamps and bonds, pork and beef production, food preservation, cooking, livestock judging, planting fall Victory Gardens, and collection of household fats, scrap metal, and rubber. Ten more clubs became Victory Clubs in which all members carried a Victory project.

Women's work directed largely to increased preservation of big fruit and vegetable crops. Negro movable school agents held rallies in three counties attended by 1,450 people from 20 communities, to demonstrate canning, drying, and brining of fruits and vegetables. These preservation methods being practiced in State more than ever before.

Farm women making concerted effort to improve home food supply; many attending the 82 cooking schools conducted by home demonstration agents. Consumer interest and nutrition centers set up in 12 more communities. Agents teaching 7 courses in cooperation with Red Cross, and 96 other rural courses. Hot lunch program carried on in 69 white schools with 4,018 children, and 32 negro schools with 1,825 children.

County agents in August held 79 demonstration meetings on care and adjustment of various kinds of farm machinery. Cooperative effort centered on procuring needed equipment. Agents held 472 meetings, attended by 11,295 persons, to push collection of scrap material.

New Food-for-Victory leaflet, Plant More Winter Legumes, distributed to 35,000 farmers. Two dodgers, How Uncontrolled Prices Affect the Farmer, and Let's Get in the Scrap To Win the Scrap, distributed through minute-men.

Marketing specialist working on war crops recommended conveniently located warehouses for storing peanuts to peanut growers' association.

"Victory bulls" for herd improvement placed on 26 farms that had no purebred bulls, in cooperation with American Jersey Cattle Club. First egg-grading station in Arkansas, now in operation, should encourage quality egg production.

Serious cotton leaf worm infestation combated by teaching farmers methods of control and use of substitutes for scarce poisons, and by locating supplies of poison with cooperation of distributors. Result was comparatively small damage to cotton in spite of poison shortage.

Livestock production work emphasizing creep feeding of calves so they will leave farms ready for slaughter. Continuing program to develop purebred ones for use in commercial herds.

Difficulties met in Food-for-Victory program include labor shortages in various sections, particularly for hay harvesting; growing shortage of transportation from farm to market; local shortages of farm machinery such as mowing machines, peanut pickers, binders; local shortages of winter legume seed. Every effort made toward cooperative agreements for maximum neighborhood and community use of farm machinery. Lack of harvesting equipment will cause some farmers to use soybeans and peanuts for feed instead of oil. Storage facilities observed to be inadequate for approaching harvest season.

DELAWARE (September 1). -- 4-H fire prevention program developed. All members given check list, required to check and remove fire hazards. Many club members are away from home harvesting crops or working in canning factories. Clubs active in rubber and iron salvage, war bond and stamp buying.

Tomato certification board meeting much difficulty in canning problems and labor shortages. Scarcity and high cost of labor forcing many farmers out of business. Tomato-picking cost has gone from 5 to 8 cents a basket, and beyond. Canneries required to buy about 50 percent of their tomatoes on open market where price averages 10 cents and more above contracted price. Most certified canners dissatisfied with certification program.

Plans made for training meetings for neighborhood leaders. Circular on blackouts for farm buildings being prepared with approval of OCD.

Numerous conferences held with Red Cross Consumer Institute and State nutrition committees to plan effective wartime programs. Every assistance given in program for food banks; many extension workers acting as chairmen of groups.

Exhibit prepared for use at all harvest shows in State.

Farm fire prevention circular prepared for distribution to every farm family during National Fire Prevention Week.

INDIANA (September 1):-- Further progress being made in organizing neighborhood leader system; practically all counties now fully organized. Movement meeting with enthusiasm.

Dairy side of Food-for-Freedom program being furthered through suggestions to county agents, by radio, press, and educational exhibits at fairs. Each Friday a 15-minute radio program is given; once a month a 30-minute program in cooperation with cow testers. At two fairs an educational dairy program,

centered on exhibit of good animals of each breed, included a "dairy clinic" conducted by Purdue specialists. One-panel dairy exhibit display at 8 other fairs.

Poultry clinics conducted at 5 county fairs reached a larger number and different class of poultry raisers than was possible through leader-training meetings. Many visitors requested poultry bulletins or stopped for interviews. Plans being made for poultry housing campaign, including bulletin on remodeling, series of "How To Do It" leaflets on equipment, and display models. Leaflets issued on housing and quality egg production, and bulletin "Purdue Poultry Pointers."

Cooperating in a Victory Garden Harvest Show to be held in Indianapolis. Main participation will take form of exhibit with 50-foot frontage featuring preservation and storage of family food supply from the garden, place of vegetables in diet, and patriotic appeal for Victory Gardens in Food-for-Freedom program. This will be one of 15 key Victory Garden Harvest Shows to be held throughout the Nation. Hundreds of smaller harvest shows being held at county fairs and 4-H exhibits in State.

KENTUCKY (September 15).-- Many farmers considering shift from cultivated crops to larger grass acreage because of labor shortage. Tendency being discouraged to prevent scarcity of feeds, which would increase cost of raising livestock and interfere with war production.

Farmers in southwestern Kentucky given following suggestions for wartime: Plant approved hybrid corn, both rows and plants closer together than usual. Grow barley to meet grain needs, and treat seed for smut. Sow more alfalfa for hay and pasture; up to 15 percent of tillable land profitable on livestock farms. If limestone is scarce, spread 1 ton to acre, 2 tons for alfalfa. Don't substitute hemp for corn unless enough other grains are provided. Soybeans less profitable than corn; more profitable on level land than wheat or barley.

Labor situation acute; little promise of relief seen. College surveying labor-saving methods and appliances devised by farmers and passing information to others. Large, flat tobacco baskets found helpful in husking corn; hold 3 bushels and save much labor.

Renewed appeal to rural people to save garden seeds, thus releasing more seeds to ship to allies.

Extension agents in Mason County supervised growing and canning of 25 acres of vegetables for county and town school lunches. Tobacco warehouse used as cannery.

About 2,000 boys and girls attended 11 4-H camps. Special emphasis on farm young people's part in winning war. Instruction centered on war activities, especially food production and conservation, handicraft, and health. Camp spending money of those attending pledged to war stamps instead of soft drinks and candy.

Hemp being grown for seed by 8,000 farmers. Agents held 85 demonstrations on removal of staminate plants in seed hemp. Seed supply for 1943 seems assured.

Special attention given renovation and preservation of clothing; 35 district "clothing for victory" meetings held to train leaders. In Food-for-Victory program, emphasis placed on canning, drying, sulfuring, and storing fall garden products and preservation of big apple crop for winter and next year.